

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application Serial No.10/628,766
Filing Date July 28, 2003
Inventor.....Ji-Rong Wen et al.
Group Art Unit2178
Examiner Vaughn, Gregory J.
Attorney's Docket No. MS1-1616US
Confirmation No.....5788
Title: Vision-Based Document Segmentation

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED NOVEMBER 28, 2005

To: Commissioner for Patents,
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

From: Allan T. Sponseller (Tel. 509-324-9256 x215; Fax 509-323-8979)
Customer No. 22801

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application.

The claims are subjected to a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121 as containing two distinct inventions:

- I. Claims 1-35 and 68-75, drawn to constructing a document structure based upon identified visual document blocks and detecting the separators between the blocks, classified in class 715, subclass 521.
- II. Claims 42-50, 69 and 73, drawn to ranking documents by searching a plurality of documents for document blocks that are visually segmented, generating rankings for the blocks, and generating

rankings for the documents based upon the block rankings, classified in class 707, subclass 3.

The undersigned attorney left a voicemail message for the Examiner on December 8, 2005, indicating that the grouping of claims was not clear because there was some overlap in the groupings, and some claims were not assigned to any group. The Examiner returned the phone call and left a voicemail message for the undersigned attorney on December 12, 2005, indicating that the groupings should have been:

- I. Claims 1-35 and 68-75.
- II. Claims 36-67.

Applicant hereby elects to prosecute claims 1-35 and 68-75 (Group I).

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and issuance of the subject application. Should any matter in this case remain unresolved, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests a telephone conference with the Examiner to resolve any such outstanding matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 12/16/05

By: 
Allan T. Sponseller
Reg. No. 38,318
(509) 324-9256